

Appl. No. 09/840,193
Amendment dated September 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The May 20, 2005 Final Office Action and the August 20, 2005 Advisory Action have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled, amended and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

ADVISORY ACTION

In the Advisory Action mailed July 29, 2005, the Examiner states that Applicant's arguments set forth in the After Final Response dated July 19, 2005 do not place the application in condition for allowance because Applicant's arguments are unpersuasive.

In response, independent claim 1 is cancelled and new independent claim 33 and new dependent claim 34 are added. In addition, the dependency of claims which were directly dependent upon independent claim 1 has been changed from "1" to
--33--.

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In the Advisory Action the Examiner alleges that the phrase "regarding the kind of recognized contour" recited in claim 1 is a broad and wide-encompassing term.

In new claim 33, the radiation image processing apparatus is defined in the preamble as determining the type of contour to which a radiographed body part belongs (for example, a square type, a rectangular type, a barrel type, etc.) corresponding to a plurality of different kinds of body parts.

In order to determine the type of contour to which a radiographed body belongs, the radiation image processing apparatus includes:

- an object region extracting section that receives a set of two-dimensionally-arranged radiation image data including radiation image data of the radiographed body part and extracts an object region formed by the radiation image data of the radiographed body part from the set of two-dimensionally-arranged radiation image data; and

- a contour recognizing section having classification criteria data for each of the plural different type contours, which recognizes a contour of the extracted object region, and determines to which one of the plurality of different type contours the recognized contour belongs based on the classification criteria data.

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Namely, as disclosed at page 58, line 13 - page 59, line 23, the contour of a body part can be classified into various types such as a square type, a rectangular type, etc. as shown in Figs. 6 to 8.

A feature of the present claimed invention includes the preparation of classification criteria data for each of the plural different type contours in advance (see pages 60 to 63 of the present application), and to determine to which one of the plurality of different type contours the recognized contour belongs based on the classification criteria data.

In contrast, Kido et al. teach an irradiation field region extracting apparatus, and do not disclose, teach or suggest a structure which determines to which of the plurality of different type contours the recognized contour belongs, based on the classification criteria data.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner points to the disclosure of Kido et al. at column 16. However, at column 16, Kido et al. merely teach the use of photographing information (see col. 14, line 55 to col. 16, line 4) in order to determine an irradiation field region.

In the present claimed invention, which of a plurality of different type contours a radiographed body part belongs to is

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determined without the use of photographing information for the radiographed body part.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by new claim 33 and Kido et al.

In view of all of the foregoing, new claim 33 is patentable over all of the references of record when taken either alone under 35 USC 102 or in combination under 35 USC 103.

Claims 2-9 and 34 which are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 33 and are patentable over the references of record in view of their dependence on claim 33 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 2-9 and 34.

It is respectfully believed that no additional fees are due for the presentation of claims 33 and 34. If, however, it is determined that additional fees are due for the presentation of claims 33 and 34, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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Entry of the claim amendments, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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Encl: Request For Continued Examination (RCE)